

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-45. (cancelled)

46. (new) A method for imaging of lymphatic vasculature in tissue, comprising the step of contacting the tissue with an antibody which interferes with binding of VEGF-D to a VEGF receptor-3, and detecting the occurrence of binding of said antibody.

47. (new) A method according to Claim 46, wherein said antibody is a monoclonal antibody selected from the group consisting of 2F8 (ATCC No. PTA-3653), 4A5 (ATCC No. HB-12698), 4E10 (ATCC No. PTA-3652), and 5F12 (ATCC No. PTA-3651), or a F(ab')₂, F(ab'), F(ab) fragment or chimeric antibody thereof.

48. (new) A method according to Claim 46, wherein the antibody is labeled covalently or noncovalently with a detectable label.

49. (new) A method according to Claim 49, wherein the detectable label is selected from the group consisting of supermagnetic agent, a paramagnetic agent, an electron dense agent, an ecogenic agent, and a radioactive agent.

50. (new) A method according to Claim 49, wherein the detectable label is selected from the group consisting of ¹²⁵I, ³²P, an enzymatic label, and a fluorimetric labels.

51. (new) A method according to Claim 50, wherein the enzymetic label is horseradish peroxidase.

52. (new) A method according to Claim 50, wherein the fluorimetric label is fluorescein-5-isothiocyanate (FITC).